

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01     PRETOR 04021 101537Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 IO-06 EUR-08 PM-05 DODE-00 ACDA-10  
OMB-01 PRS-01 SP-02 L-01 OES-02 /065 W  
-----072480 101608Z /44

O P 101512Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8389

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4021

LIMDIS

LONDON ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR BOWDLER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MUNC US SF UR

SUBJ: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT BY SAG

REF: STATE 188207

1. I WAS UNABLE TO SEE FOURIE WHO WAS PREPARING TO DEPART TODAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA FOR LONDON, BUT I SPOKE WITH HIM ON THE PHONE TO ADVISE HIM OF THE SUBJECT OF OUR DEMARCHE. HE ASKED ME TO SEE DEPUTY SECRETARY (OVERSEAS COUNTRIES DIVISION, DFA) VAN DALSEN WHO, HE SAID, WOULD REPORT TO HIM PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR LONDON. FOURIE NOTED THAT THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAD ALREADY BEEN TO SEE VAN DALSEN ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

2. IN RESPONSE TO OUR CONCERNS, VAN DALSEN REFERRED

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PAGE 02     PRETOR 04021 101537Z

FIRST TO DEFENCE MINISTER BOTHA'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESS LAST EVENING: "BOTH THE PRIME MINISTER AND SUCCESSIVE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE ALREADY EXPLAINED EXTENSIVELY AND ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY IN SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY. I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO ADD." VAN DALSEN SAID HE WONDERED WHERE THE SOVITS HAD GOTTEN THE "ROMANTIC NOTION"

ABOUT A KALAHARI TEST SITE. HE PRESUMED THEY WERE PREPARING FOR SOME INITIATIVE AT THE LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE LATER THIS MONTH. VAN DALSEN ALSO SAID THAT THE GERMAN DEMARCHE HAD MADE REFERENCE TO A SOVIET ALLEGATION THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS RECEIVING OUTSIDE, NAMELY NATO, ASSISTANCE FOR ITS NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT. VAN DALSEN STATED SOUTH AFRICA WAS PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF PROCEEDING ON ITS OWN. ASKING RHETORICALLY WHAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD DO WITH A NUCLEAR WEAPON, HE REPEATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT RELATED EXCLUSIVELY TO PEACEFUL USES.

3. THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR INFORMS US THAT VAN DALSEN HAD GIVEN HIM A SIMILAR RESPONSE.  
NELSON

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** NUCLEAR WEAPONS, DEMARCHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MNUC, PARM, US, SF, UR  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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